

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 037965

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USSAEC

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS ON JOINT COMMISSION BUSINESS:

DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DEPUTY ASSTSEC SOBER

1. TREASURY HAS SENT DIRECTLY TO SOLAIM, VIA TELEX, A MESSAGE ON DRAFT PROPOSED JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOR FEBRUARY 26-27 JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING. SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A DRAFT OF THE SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, WHICH TREASURY DEPUTY FOR SAUDI ARABIAN AFFAIRS, LEWIS W. BOWDEN, AGREED TO SEND TO YOU BY THE END OF THIS WEEK.

YOU INDICATED THAT FIVE POINTS SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE: TCA, OPIC AGREEMENT, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS. THE DRAFT WHICH FOLLOWS ADDRESSEES THESE SUBJECTS, AND INCLUDES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 037965

IN ADDITION A PARAGRAPH ON THE OPENING OF THE COMMISSION

OFFICE AND ONE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AS A RESULT OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN RIYADH.

DRAFT FOLLOWS:

-- TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT:

THE COMMISSION WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THE SIGNING ON FEBRUARY 13 OF A TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH ESTABLISHES PROCEDURES FOR THE FURNISHING OF MUTUALLY AGREED TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS FROM THE US TO SAUDI ARABIA.

THE TCA SHOULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE CHANNELING OF AMERICAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL ECONOMY.

-- JOINT COMMISSION OFFICE IN RIYADH:

IT WAS AGREED TO OPEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE A SMALL JOINT COMMISSION OFFICE IN RIYADH STAFFED BY PERSONNEL FROM BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES. THIS OFFICE WILL SERVE AS THE PRINCIPAL POINT OF COORDINATION IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MUTUALLY-AGREED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

-- OPIC INVESTMENT GUARANTY AGREEMENT:

THE COMMISSION NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT AN OPIC INVESTMENT GUARANTY AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED. THE AGREEMENT SHOULD INCREASE AND BROADEN THE INTEREST OF US PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN PARTICIPATION IN SAUDI ARABIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE COMMISSION LOOKS FORWARD TO SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE AREAS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT.

-- VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

THE COMMISSION NOTED THE SERIES OF ACTION PROGRAMS RECOMMENDED BY THE AMERICAN VOCATIONAL TRAINING TEAM WHICH VISITED SAUDI ARABIA LAST FALL. THESE ACTION PROGRAMS, IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAUDI SECOND FIVE-YEAR

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 037965

PLAN VOCATIONAL TRAINING GOALS, INCLUDE US GOVERNMENT ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THE BUILDING, EQUIPPING, STAFFING AND OPERATION OF TECHNICAL CENTERS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROJECTS WILL BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR.

-- HIGHER EDUCATION:

THE COMMISSION NOTED THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE AMERICAN EDUCATION TEAM TO SAUDI ARABIA LAST FALL, WHICH REVIEWED THE SAUDI ARABIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND RECOMMENDED ASSISTANCE PROJECTS TO COMPLEMENT PRESENT EFFORTS TO

IMPROVE THE SYSTEM. THE TEAM CONCENTRATED ON PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS FACING HIGHER EDUCATION, SCHOOL SYSTEMS, TEACHER TRAINING, CLASSROOM FACILITIES, AND ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR NOMADIC CHILDREN AND THOSE LIVING IN REMOTE AND SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS.

IT WAS AGREED AT THE COMMISSION MEETING TO SEND ANOTHER AMERICAN TEAM TO FORMALLY EVALUATE THE ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, AS WELL AS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITIES AND HIGH-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

A SECOND ACTION AREA TO BE EXPLORED WOULD INVOLVE US-SAUDI ARABIAN COOPERATION IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: BROADENED STUDENT AND FACULTY EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS; JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS; THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JUNIOR COLLEGES IN SAUDI ARABIA; AND THE TRAINING OF ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN SAUDI UNIVERSITIES.

-- WATER RESOURCES AND LAND USE:

THE COMMISSION DISCUSSED UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR JOINT WATER AND LAND PROJECTS, INCLUDING WATER RESOURCES, WATER DATA BANK, AND LAND MANAGEMENT. IT WAS AGREED TO SEND OUT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TEAMS TO ASSESS THESE AREAS AND ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 037965

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.

THE COMMISSION ALSO APPROVED THE IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE TO SAUDI ARABIA OF A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RESEARCH MANAGEMENT TEAM TO PLAN A RESEARCH PROGRAM AND DETERMINE ORGANIZATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CENTRAL RESEARCH LABORATORY OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

-- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE EIGHTEEN PROJECT AREAS FOR COOPERATION CONTAINED IN THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM PROPOSED BY THE US SIDE. IT WAS AGREED THAT A SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT AND FUND THE MUTUALLY AGREED PROGRAM

AREAS- IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT AN INITIAL UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TEAM WOULD BE SENT TO SAUDI ARABIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ADVISE ON THE OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTER. ADDITIONAL US EXPERT TEAMS TO FOLLOW WILL WORK WITH SAUDI ARABIAN EXPERTS TO DEFINE THE PRECISE PROGRAMS FOR THE OTHER AGREED PROJECT AREAS.

-- SAUDI STATISTICAL BASE:

THE COMMISSION AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING A STATISTICAL BASE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA. THE AMERICAN SIDE STATED ITS READINESS TO SEND OUT TWENTY-TWO EXPERTS IN SIXTEEN PRINCIPAL STATISTICAL DISCIPLINES TO ASSIST THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT IN DEVELOPING AN ADEQUATE STATISTICAL CAPABILITY.

THE COMMISSION ALSO NOTED THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES TECHNICAL EXPERTS WITH RESPECT TO INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION, CUSTOMS PROCEDURES, PORT MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS, PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, AND MARINE FISHERIES. IT WAS AGREED THAT EARLY ACTION IN THESE AREAS WOULD ENHANCE THE PACE OF SAUDI ARABIAN DEVELOPMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 05 STATE 037965

-- OVERALL ASSESSMENT:

THE COMMISSION EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRESS TO DATE AND CONSIDERED THE DISCUSSIONS OF ITS FIRST MEETING A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN THE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS ECONOMIC RELATIONS. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THEY WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING THE NEXT JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN SAUDI ARABIA IN (TO BE DECIDED) 1975.

REQUEST YOUR VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS. END QUOTE.

2. WE UNDERSTAND SUBSTANCE OF DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WAS DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL WITH SOLAIM AND ECONCOUNSELOR WHEN BOWDEN OF TREASURY WAS RECENTLY IN RIYADH. WE HAVE INFORMED TREASURY THAT TEXT SHOULD, NEVERTHELESS, HAVE BEEN SENT TO EMBASSY THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS SO THAT YOU WOULD HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO COMMENT BEFORE IT WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE SAG BY TELEX. I SHALL TAKE THIS UP WITH PARSKY ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON COMMUNIQUE. THESE

NEED NOT BE STADIS. KISSINGER

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